

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 30-32 and 46. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 30-32 and 46-49 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2. Examiner Objections – Claims

Claims 46-49 are objected to because of the following informality: In claim 46, "the WLAN access server" should be "a WLAN access server". The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough review of the claims. Applicant has amended claims 46 in order to correct the informalities. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

3. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 30-32, 46, 48 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by USP Application Publication 2004/0225878 to Costa-Requena, et al., hereinafter Costa. Applicants have amended claims 30-32 and 46 to overcome the rejections. As amended, Costa fails to disclose at least the elements of Claim 30:

...a means for sending the user's shared key along with the user's identifier towards a SSO session manager serving a service network (SN) of a mobile network operator (MNO) (MNO-SN). wherein the SSO session manager is operable to manage a session record for a user accessing the service network through an access network;

the authentication gateway further being operable to receive a notification that an access session has been established, the notification triggering the sending of the user's shared key towards the SSO session manager;

the authentication gateway being further operable to receiving a notification that a session at the access level has been terminated, and forwarding the termination notification towards the SSO session manager in order to inactivate a current master session for the user.

And in claim 46:

...means for carrying out an authentication procedure to authenticate the user with an authentication gateway of a core network (CN), through a WLAN access server (WLAN-AS), wherein the authentication gateway is operable to receive notifications that an access session has been established and terminated;

Costa discloses a system having different authentication methods--the Single Sign On (SSO) portion being delegated to a module called the "Liberty Manager" based on the Liberty Alliance protocols. Those protocols are based on HTTP, but do not specify how to perform an initial authentication and connect it afterwards with HTTP. Costa also fails to disclose how to perform an initial authentication and connect it afterwards with HTTP. Costa fails to adequately explain the SSO mechanism itself, whose main purpose is to avoid multiple authentications per-protocol.

In contrast, the present invention describes and claims the core SSO mechanism, as specifically applied to the WLAN area. After an initial authentication over an WLAN access server, the system and method of the present invention specify how to transfer this information (making use of the Session Manager and the SSO-Plugin entities) to the HTTP stack, and reuse it in SSO for web access, in order to avoid further authentications. The SSO of the present invention is not necessarily bound to Liberty Alliance, but to any HTTP service access.

4. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claim 47 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Costa in view of publication "Using GSM/UMTS for Single Sign-On" by Pashalidis and Mitchell hereinafter Mitchell. Claim 47 depends from amended claim 46 and recites further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 46. Therefore, the allowance of claim 47 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending Claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Cameron', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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